

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 SPC-03

AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 L-03 DRC-01

EUR-25 SAJ-01 /181 W

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9306

INFO USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECRP

SUBJECT: OIL TRADE DATA - PRC

REF: STATE 251108

1. CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION VOLUME: THE PRC DOES NOT PUBLISH MONTHLY STATISTICS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTION. PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI REPORTEDLY TOLD THE VISITING JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN JANUARY, 1974, THAT CHINA'S 1973 CRUDE OIL OUTPUT HAD REACHED 50 MILLION METRIC TONS, A FIGURE ALSO DISCLOSED EARLIER TO OFFICIALS OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. PREMIER CHOU INFORMED EDGAR SNOW IN 1971 THAT CHINA'S OIL OUTPUT IN 1970 HAD BEEN 20 MILLION METRIC TONS. A STEEP RISE TO 50 MILLION TONS IN 1973 COULD BE DUE TO MODERATE PRODUCTION INCREASES FROM TACHING AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SHENGLI OILFIELD IN SHANTUNG PROVINCE AND THE NEW TA KANG OILFIELD, BELIEVED TO BE NEAR TIENTSIN. PRIOR TO THE FIGURE ATTRIBUTED TO PREMIER CHOU, IT WAS GENERALLY ESTIMATED THAT CHINA'S MAXIMUM OUTPUT IN 1973 WOULD PROVE TO BE ABOUT 40 MILLION UNCLASSIFIED

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METRIC TONS.

2. EXPORTS OR RE-EXPORTS: CHINA'S PETROLEUM EXPORTS IN 1973 ARE ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. JAPAN: ONE MILLION METRIC TONS OF CRUDE OIL.
 - B. NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM: ABOUT ONE MILLION METRIC TONS BUT NO FIRM FIGURES AVAILABLE.
 - C. HONG KONG: ACCORDING TO HKG STATISTICS, PETROLEUM IMPORTS FROM CHINA FOR THE JANUARY-JUNE, 1973 PERIOD WERE AS FOLLOWS:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| DIESEL OIL (TONS) | 3,270 |
| KEROSENE (IPG) | 727,000 |
| LUBRICATING GREASES (LB) | 500,000 |
| PETROLEUM JELLY (LB) | 265,000 |
| PARAFFIN WAX (LB) | 3,542,000 |
| OTHER MINERAL OILS, ETC. (IMP. GAL.) | 161,000 |

POST-EMBARGO SHIPMENTS OF DIESEL OIL AND KEROSENE TO HONG KONG HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP CONSIDERABLY, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1973 YEAR-END FIGURES OF THESE TWO ITEMS SHOULD BE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE HALF-YEARLY FIGURES. THERE WERE NO RE-EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN 1973.

3. IMPORTS: NO IMPORTS OF CRUDE OIL OR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS WERE REPORTED AND THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE NEGLIGIBLE.

4. REFINERY DATA: PRECISE DATA NOT AVAILABLE. CHINA HAS A NUMBER OF REFINERIES LOCATED IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES. CRUDE INPUT USUALLY COMES FROM A NEARBY OILFIELD, BUT SOME REFINERIES DERIVE THEIR CRUDE FROM SOME DISTANCE AWAY, SUCH AS FROM TACHING IN N. E. CHINA. THE DESTINATION OF THEIR OUTPUT IS GENERALLY DOMESTIC. SHIPMENTS TO NORTH KOREA ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE COME FROM OILFIELD OR REFINERIES LOCATED IN N. E. CHINA WHILE SHIPMENTS OF REFINED PRODUCTS TO NORTH VIETNAM, PRINCIPALLY FROM KWANGTUNG REFINERIES. REFINED PRODUCTS SHIPPED TO HONG KONG EMANATE MOSTLY FROM REFINERIES IN THE N. E. CHINA PROVINCES, DAIREN REFINERY IN PARTICULAR, AND, MORE RECENTLY, FROM THE KWANGTUNG REFINERIES INCLUDING THE MAOMING REFINERY.

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5. STOCK IN STORAGE: NO DEFINITE INFORMATION AVAILABLE. IN RECENT YEARS, CHINA IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP A STOCKPILE AS A WAR PREPARATION MEASURE. NCNA JANUARY 20, 1972 REPORTED THAT COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENTS, SIMULTANEOUSLY BUILDING METALLIC PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS, HAD SET UP LOCAL PETROLEUM STORAGES BUILT OF BRICKS, STONE AND CEMENT CONCRETE WITH THE WALLS PROTECTED BY LEAK-

PREVENTIVE MATERIALS. PROVINCES, REGIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BUILT SIMILAR PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITIES. THE OBJECTIVE, SUCH AS THAT IN CHAOYANG HSIEN (KWANGTUNG), WAS TO HAVE STORAGE OF OIL SUFFICIENT FOR USE FOR HALF A YEAR.

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